

2012 ANNUAL WORK PLAN

I. MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES - 2012

- A. The Barron County Forest is comprised of 14 compartments with a total of 16,390 acres. The 2011 WisFIRS printout shows the following acres:

Forest Cover:

1. Aspen	4,674 acres
2. Bottomland Hardwoods	38 acres
3. White Birch	19 acres
4. Fir/Spruce	2 acres
5. Northern Hardwoods	2,596 acres
6.. Oak	4,766 acres
7.. Red Pine	344 acres
8.. White Pine	297 acres
9. Black Spruce	24 acres
10. Swamp Conifers	114 acres
11. Swamp Hardwoods	291 acres
12. White Spruce	19 acres
13. Tamarack	96 acres

Non-forest cover:

1. Upland grass	190 acres
2. True grasses	14 acres
3. Parking Area	2 acres
4. Marsh	1,202 acres
5. Water	47 acres
6. Lowland brush	769 acres
7. Minor lakes	612 acres
8. Minor streams	23 acres
9. Right-of-way	109 acres
10. Upland brush	70 acres
11. Rock outcrops	57 acres
12. Farmland	62 acres
13. Developed Use	2 acres
14. Lowland Grass	31 acres

- B. The Forest access road system consists of 70 miles of trails and access roads classified under primary and secondary access roads. Details of classification system can be found in Chapter 700 and a map in Chapter 900 of the 2006-2020 Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

II. TIMBER SALE ADMINISTRATION

Timber Sale Status - there are 8 timber sales on the county books at this time:

- A. Five (5) sales were closed-out in 2011.
B. Two (2) timber sales are expected to be closed out in 2012.

III. TIMBER SALE PLANNING AND ESTABLISHMENT

- A. Acres and type/species - For 2012 approximately 500 acres of timber sale establishment will be completed. The acreage being marked consists of 350 acres of oak and northern hardwood thinning, 100 acres of swamp hardwood and swamp conifer and 50 acres of aspen regeneration.
- B. A timber sale will be marked in Veterans park. The sale involves a seconding thinning of plantation pine and the removal of high-risk and mature timber in the park and campground area.
- C. 2011 - Five (5) timber sales were offered in October of 2011. All five of those sales were sold. Volumes of the sales that were sold totaled 596 MBF (thousand board feet) of hardwood sawtimber, 55 MBF of softwood sawtimber,

3250 cds. of aspen and mixed hardwood of pulpwood and boltwood and 215 cds. of softwood cordwood.

IV. FOREST RECONNAISSANCE

Forest reconnaissance is completed following completion of timber sale or when stand is physically entered and then rescheduled. The entire forest has been re-reconned in the past 20 years and recon has been kept up to date in order to assure the most useful information possible from the reconnaissance printout.

Barron County will fully implement the new Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System. One advantage of implementing this new system is that it will allow us to update the cultural needs segment of the reconnaissance information. Many of the needs that were in the old system are no longer being done or needed.

V. TIMBERSTAND IMPROVEMENT

- A. Forty (40) acres of TSI (Timber Stand Improvement) in the form of oak release were completed in 2011. The acreage is located in Compartment 10. An additional 20 acres are scheduled for completion in 2012. Monies to complete this project are being supplied by a County Forest Sustainable Grant.
- B. Approximately 20 acres of oak forest that was direct seeded in 2002, located in the Silver Cr. compartment will be evaluated for a T.S.I treatment. Monies are available through the WDNR Turkey stamp program.

VI. REFORESTATION

A herbicide release project is scheduled on approximately 16 acres of Non-CFL at the Cumberland Gravel Pit.

VII. FOREST PROTECTION

- A. A majority of the Barron County Forest is in the DNR intensive fire protection zones. The Silver Creek and Hay River Compartments are in non-protective zones. Agreements are in place with the appropriate fire departments.

Fire is not normally a problem except during extreme conditions. Barron County has very little conifer type to worry about.
- B. There have been no major outbreaks of insects or diseases on the County Forest in the recent past and none are anticipated. Specialists are called in whenever something of interest or an unusual nature is detected. Larch beetle is causing some mortality. EAB (emerald ash borer) and Gypsy Moth are anticipated future problems.

VIII. MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Barron County has no buildings and/or campgrounds on the County Forest.

- A. Gates. As budgeting allows we are replacing old cable gates with either pipe or farm type gates. Gates and signs are constructed and maintained with time and monies budgeted in the County Maintenance budget.
- B. Roads and Trails Annually, money is budgeted for maintenance and development of forest access roads. Gates and signs are constructed and maintained with time and monies budgeted in the County Maintenance budget.
- C. Property Lines. In 2011 property lines were identified for re-marking, the program will continue in 2012.

IX. FISH & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Wildlife Habitat funds (.05 cents/acre) are used for a variety of habitat projects on the Barron County Forest. Oak regeneration is Barron County's number one priority and takes precedence over all other habitat projects.

Habitat funds will be used for trail mowing maintenance of water control structures.

X. GIS - BARRON COUNTY FOREST

The digitization of county forest roads was completed in 2011. Additional roads and trails will be added to the database if and when they are developed. A GIS layer will be created to monitor and track the installation and maintenance of property lines.

XI. LAND PURCHASES, SALES, EXCHANGES WITHIN COUNTY FOREST

240 acres of forested acreage was purchased in the Town of Sumner and is being applied for entry into the County Forest. A Knowles - Nelson Stewardship Grant is being applied for and will provide up to 50% of the monies, the remaining 50 % were obtained through a WDNR Project loan.

XII. INTERACTION WITH OTHER GROUPS

- A. Snowmobile Clubs - Whenever possible, segments of the Barron County snowmobile trail system are placed within the Barron County Forest. To the greatest extent possible, trails are placed on existing forest access roads. Such placement often eliminates need for brushing on such segments. Disruption of snowmobile trails for logging is usually minimal. The newly created Conservation Deputy works closely with all snowmobile and ATV clubs in the County.
- B. Skiing - The Barron County Forest has a ½ mile lighted cross-country ski trail in the Waterman Lake block. Site includes a parking lot and warming house. Members of the Ice Age Trail developed and placed an information Kiosk along with paving the parking lot with the cooperation of the Barron County Highway Department. All are maintained by the Cumberland Area Ski Touring Association (CASTA). The County provides annual funding to assist in the maintenance of this resource.

The Conservation Deputy position in the Barron County Sheriff Department will take responsibility of co-coordinating activities on the County trail system.

XIII. RECREATION

- A. Parks and Campgrounds - No parks or campgrounds are located on the Barron County Forest.
- B. Boat Landings - Boat landings on the Forest are mostly undeveloped with carry-in access only. The Little Sand Lake acquisition added two developed lake accesses to the forest.
- C. All Terrain Vehicles - Most of the Barron County Forest is closed to ATV use. The 15-year Forest Plan allows use of ATV's in County Forest after case-by-case review by the Property Committee. Such use is limited to ungated roads that are not signed to restrict ATV use. No off-road ATV use is permitted on the forest.
- D. Snowmobile Trails - Approximately 9 miles of funded snowmobile trails are located in the forest.
- E. Snowshoeing - A 2 ½ mile snowshoe trail was completed in 2001 with an additional 2 mile loop in 2002. Total of 4 ½ miles of three connecting loops have been signed, brushed, and ready for snow since early in 2002.
- F. Rifle Range - A rifle range is located in the Hay River block of the County Forest. It consists of a shelter, a .22 range; two big bore ranges and a pistol range.

- G. The National Ice Age Trail - traverses several compartments of the forest. Portions of the trail are found in the following compartments: Cedar Lake, Bear Lake and Waterman Lake.

Parts of the above mentioned snowshoe trail uses a portion of the Ice Age Trail in the Waterman Lake block. The Ice Age Trail is always protected by timber sale contract provisions, when a timber sale comes in contact with the trail.

- H. Equestrian Trails - Two trails along with a horse trailer camping area are established in the Narrow Gauge Compartment. Establishment and maintenance was supplied by and is the responsibility of the Barron County Horse Trail Association

XIV. GRANTS AND FUNDING

- A. County Conservation Funds.
1. 2011 - Funds will be applied for the continuation of the next phase in the development of a handicapped trout fishing trail and deck in the Silver Creek unit.
- B. County Forest Sustainable Grant.
1. A \$ 3,000.00 Grant will be applied for to complete the Mikana T.S.I. project in Management Unit 10.
- C. Snowmobile and ATV trail funds are used to maintain and develop such trails, where appropriate. The vast majority of these trails are located on private lands.
- D. At this time 1.75 miles of ATV trails are located within the County Forest.

XV. OTHER TOPICS

- A. Wisconsin County Forest Association Meetings - A representative from the Property Committee and Forest Administrator have been active participants in WCFA activities and committees. Barron County will continue such participation as a means of keeping up with new ideas from other Counties, to find solutions to Barron County problems and to have a voice in legislation at the state and national level.
- B. Computers, Programs, GIS, etc - See Section X for update.
- C. Fifteen Year Plan Activities
No amendments to the 15-Year Plan were made in 2011.
- D. Forest Certification - An audit conducted by FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) & SFI (Sustainable Forestry Initiative) was conducted in the summer of 2011. The results were positive and Barron County Forest remains certified as a sustainable forest in both FSC and SFI programs.
- E. DNR Audit - A WDNR audit was conducted in the fall of 2011. Minor discrepancies were identified and corrected.